

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CU, MX

SUBJ: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON HIS VISIT
TO CUBA

REF: MEXICO 2683

1. OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE FOR VISIT BY FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA TO CUBA WAS DEDICATION OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTE NAMED AFTER LATE MEXICAN PRESIDENT LAZARO CARDENAS. IN HIS SPEECH AT DEDICATION, WHICH WAS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO EXTOLLING PERSONAL VIRTUES AND POLITICAL SAGACITY OF CARDENAS, RABASA DID COMMENT THAT "TRUE REVOLUTIONS DO NOT IMPLY A MERE CHANGE OF MEN IN POSITIONS OF POWER, BUT RATHER A SERIOUS AND RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURES. THUS MEXICAN AND CUBAN REVOLUTIONS ARE AUTHENTIC AND LEGITIMATE...CUBA IS NOT ALONE IN HER REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE, MEXICO ACCOMPANIES HER*... MEXICO BELIEVES THAT, BY HER OWN RIGHT, HER GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND HISTORIC DESTINY, CUBA BELONGS TO AMERICA. MEXICO WITH ITS OWN HISTORIC EXPERIENCE, CONSEQUENTLY COULD NOT VIEW WITH INDIFFERENCE THE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC ISOLATION OF A SISTER COUNTRY SUCH AS CUBA. HENCE, MEXICO WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CUBA SO THAT, IN THE MOST SCRUPULOUS RESPECT OF HER SOVEREIGN DECISIONS, CUBA MAY BE ABLE TO EXERCISE HER RIGHTS AND CARRY OUT THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH DEVOLVE UPON A MEMBER OF

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THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY..."

2. DURING COURSE OF MARCH 30 HAVANA PRESS CONFERENCE, RABASA TERMED THE STATE OF MEXICAN-CUBAN RELATIONS AS "STUPENDOUS". HE COMMENTED THAT RELATIONS HAVE UNDERGONE A "NEW AND VIGOROUS IMPULSE" DURING ECHEVERRIA'S ADMINISTRATION. RABASA MADE FURTHER COMMENTS OF INTEREST IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:

A) MEXICO ENDORSES PERUVIAN PROPOSAL FOR 10-YEAR ARMS MORATORIUM IN LATIN AMERICA.

RB) CONCERNING NON-PARTICIPATION BY CUBA IN WASHINGTON MFM, RABASA STATED, "WASHINGTON CAN NOT GO BEYOND MANDATE SET DOWN IN COLOMBIA WHERE, UNFORTUNATELY AND CONTRARY TO DESIRES OF MY COUNTRY, THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOME COUNTRIES AT BOGOTA BROACHED QUESTION OF INVITING CUBA. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE STILL COUNTRIES WHICH OPPOSE CUBA'S PLAYING A PART IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY".

C) ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT GOM MIGHT RECOGNIZE NORTH VIETNAM, RABASA RESPONDED, "I BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT YET CLEAR, SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO DEFINITION OF THE JURIDICAL STATUS WHICH WILL PERTAIN. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT FRIGHTENED BY THE IDEA OF HAVING RELATIONS WITH ANY NATION..."

D) "ASKED ABOUT EXPORT TO CUBA OF ARGENTINE ARTICLES MANUFACTURED UNDER U.S. LICENSE, FOREIGN SECRETARY STATED THAT "MEXICO IS AGAINST ANY KIND OF ISOLATION".

E) QUESTIONED ABOUT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRAVEL PLANS, RABASA STATED, "I AM SURE THAT BEFORE HE FINISHES HIS TERM OF OFFICE, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WILL BE IN HAVANA".

F) AFP BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF PATTERSON KIDNAPPING. RABASA'S COMMENT WAS THAT GOM DOING ALL POSSIBLE. HE DID STATE THAT GOM UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE WAS DEMAND FOR \$500,000 RANSOM.

G) AFP ALSO ASKED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF CUBAN EXILE GROUPS IN MEXICO WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO BOMBINGS AGAINST CUBAN EMBASSY AND CUBANA AIRLINES. RABASA NOTED THAT GOM PROFOUNDLY REGRETTED THOSE ACTIONS. BY NOT DISSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM QUESTIONER'S LINE OF REASONING, RABASA IMPLICITLY AGREED THAT THESE TERRORIST ACTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY CUBAN EXILES.

3. UPON HIS RETURN TO MEXICO CITY, RABASA MADE STATEMENTS WIDELY QUOTED IN APRIL 1 MEXICO CITY PRESS TO EFFECT THAT CUBA HAS NO INTEREST IN RETURNING TO OAS.

4. EDITORIAL COVERAGE EXTENSIVE AND ECSTATIC.
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